CLAIMS

1   1. A method of digitally managing financial instruments,
2   comprising the steps:
3
4   an owner, creating a title for a financial instrument,
5   the title including (i) a message describing the title
6   and how to contact the owner, and (ii) a digital
7   signature of the owner;
8
9   the owner transferring ownership of the financial
10 instrument to another person, including the steps of
11   i)   the owner appending to the title a public part
12   of a signature scheme of said other person, and
13   ii)   the owner signing the title using a public
14   signature scheme of the owner.

1   2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the
2   transferring step includes the step of appending to the
3   title a number indicating the number of successive owners
4   of the title.

1   3. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the
2   step of the owner keeping the public part of the
3   signature of the other person and making said public part
4   available to potential subsequent buyers.

1   4. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the
2   step of sending the title, with the signature of the
3   owner made using the public signature scheme of the
4   owner, to said other person.

1 5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the creating
2 step includes the step of using a secure cryptographic
3 generator to create the title.

1 6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the secure
2 cryptographic generator is an IBM 4758.

1 7. A system for digitally managing financial instruments,
2 comprising:
3
4 means for an owner to create a title for a financial
5 instrument, the title including (i)a message describing
6 the title and how to contact the owner, and (ii) a
7 digital signature of the owner; and
8
9 means for the owner to transfer ownership of the
10 financial instrument to another person, including
11   i)   means for the owner to append to the title a
12   public part of a signature scheme of said other
13   person, and
14   ii)   means for the owner to sign the title using a
15   public signature scheme of the owner.

1 8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the means to
2 transfer ownership includes means for appending to the
3 title a number indicating the number of successive owners
4 of the title.

1 9. A system according to Claim 7, further comprising
2 means for the owner to keep the public part of the

1 signature ● the other person, and to ma●e said public
2 part available to potential subsequent buyers.

1 10. A system according to Claim 7, further comprising
2 means for sending the title, with the signature of the
3 owner made using the public signature scheme of the
4 owner, to said other person.

1 11. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the means for
2 creating includes a secure cryptographic generator.

1 12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the secure
2 cryptographic generator is an IBM 4758.

1 13. A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
3 by the machine to perform method steps for digitally
4 managing financial instruments, said method steps
5 comprising:
6
7 an owner, creating a title for a financial instrument,
8 the title including (i)a message describing the title and
9 how to contact the owner, and (ii) a digital signature of
10 the owner;
11
12 the owner transferring ownership of the financial
13 instrument to another person, including the steps of
14   iii) the owner appending to the title a public part
15   of a signature scheme of said other person, and
16   iv) the owner signing the title using a public
17   signature scheme of the owner.

1 14. A program storage device according to Claim 13,
2 wherein the transferring step includes the step of
3 appending to the title a number indicating the number of
4 successive owners of the title.

1 15. A program storage device according to Claim 13,
2 wherein said method steps further comprise the steps of
3 the owner keeping the public part of the signature of the
4 other person, and making said public part available to
5 potential subsequent buyers.

1 16. A program storage device according to Claim 13,
2 wherein said method steps further comprise the step of
3 sending the title, with the signature of the owner made
4 using the public signature scheme of the owner, to said
5 other person.

1 17. A program storage device according to Claim 13,
2 wherein the creating step includes the step of using a
3 secure cryptographic generator to create the title.

1 18. A program storage device according to Claim 17,
2 wherein the secure cryptographic generator is an IBM
3 4758.